

## **TIMBER SALE CHECKLIST**

**FOREST AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** YRSF, Paint Creek Unit, Compartment 9. NW ¼, Section 6, T96N, R03W, Allamakee County, Iowa.

**DATE:** 10/15/08

**SCOPE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICE:** Regeneration harvest on 2 areas containing large senescent oak-hickory forest in decline. Some salvage harvesting was done here back in the 70's, and the stands are somewhat understocked. Larger trees showing scarring and breakage with some windthrow. Oak wilt present in both stands, and aspen mortality from an unknown causal agent is severe.

**ACRES:** 7

**GOAL/OBJECTIVES FOR THE TIMBER SALE:** Regenerate oak-hickory by clearcutting, scarification, and supplemental tree planting.

**ACCESS FOR TIMBER SALE:** Can we access site through state lands or will an easement be needed? Is access seasonal? Does sale cross waterways and what will be done to minimize damage? Do we need to lay out a temporary road or skid trails? Where will the landing(s) be located?

Access can be totally across state land. Alternative access may be negotiated with private landowners to the south and west. No waterways will be crossed. Access will only be allowed when the ground is firm or frozen. Landing can be accommodated in state owned cropland, or on firetower road.

**ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES.** Upon examination of the area, is the presence of any archeological resources suspected? Should inquiry be made of the Office of State Archeologist regarding presence of possible archeological resources? If not, why not?

No archaeological resources are suspected in this area. Review of the 1986 site report indicates no known archaeological sites in this area of the state forest.

**FOREST HEALTH.** What forest health issues are involved? How does the cultural practice affect them? Is the need for dead and dying trees and forest litter addressed and how?

Major forest health issue here is senescence and decline. Many trees in this stand have died and/or broken off. Oak wilt has been active in this area for many years and continues to take some of the larger specimens, although it is not yet epidemic. Of major concern is the rapid decline and mortality in big tooth aspen, which is a major component in this area. Some attempt at regenerating this aspen component is being made simply by clearcutting, although this tactic may not work since it appears as though entire clones are affected, which may prevent root sprouting. It is possible that some aspen seedlings may be recruited by leaving some unaffected aspen on the edges of the cut area.

**INVASIVE SPECIES.** Presence of invasive plants and what will be done to minimize spread?

Garlic mustard is the only invasive noted on either site, and its extent is not that large. Garlic mustard will probably not compete well once the site is opened up. At any rate, some attempt at control is warranted in the harvest area, probably by spraying roundup at appropriate time of the year.

**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES.** Are any threatened or endangered species effected and if so, what steps will be taken to protect them?

Both sites were checked by natural areas inventory personnel in spring and fall of '08. No T & E species were identified.

**PUBLIC SAFETY.** Are issues of public safety involved? What steps are taken to address them?

Public safety should not be an issue during this operation. All trails will be left clear of debris and should pose no hazard to trail users.

**RECREATION.** What are any short or long-term impacts on recreation in the harvest area, including hunting, skiing, hiking, etc.

Recreation should not be affected, except that the harvests may improve wildlife habitat for some species, enhancing hunting opportunities in this area.

**RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.** Does the cultural practice impact research and/or education? Do research institutions need to be contacted and if so, when was this done, who was contacted and what were the issues raised?

Research and education should not be affected, except to the extent that these harvest areas may provide outdoor classrooms for forestry field days and other interested groups.

**REFORESTATION.** How does this cultural practice affect regeneration on the area? Is natural or artificial regeneration needed and if so, what steps are taken to provide it?

This area is severely lacking in early successional habitat. This cultural practice will ultimately provide for that over the next 20 years. Oak seedlings already present on the site will be supplemented with nursery stock.

**UNIQUE NATURAL AREAS.** Does this cultural practice take place within a designated natural area or within an area that should be considered a natural area? If so, what steps are taken to preserve the character of the area?

This site is not a unique natural area.

**WATERSHED PROTECTION AND WATER QUALITY.** What watershed protection and water quality issues are involved and what steps are being taken?

Logging will only be allowed when the ground is firm or frozen, and all skid trails and landings will be repaired and seeded to provide cover and prevent erosion. Equipment will not be allowed on slopes over 35%.

**WILDLIFE.** What wildlife issues are involved and how are they being addressed? Does the practice benefit wildlife, what species and what are the benefits? Were species of greatest conservation need identified on this site? If so, how will this activity impact them. Does this activity effect forest fragmentation? If so, how will this be addressed?

Wildlife habitat should be enhanced after this operation by providing for more early successional cover. This should enhance survival of upland birds, turkey, and deer by providing cover and nesting sites. Fragmentation will be temporary, as the site will be reforested. Species of special concern were not identified here.

**Comments/Questions from the Public regarding this harvest:**

**Have all public comments from the public been received and addressed and are they attached to this document for public review?**

No comments on these proposed forest management practices have been received at this time.

Reviewed by: (delete from website posting)

Wildlife Diversity Specialist \_\_\_\_\_

Plant Ecologist \_\_\_\_\_

Threatened and Endangered Species Specialist \_\_\_\_\_

Fisheries Biologist (If trout stream is on or adjacent to harvest site)

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District/Area Forester (or designee) \_\_\_\_\_

Section Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_